



Friends help send local youth to NHD competition



Dressed as a Union private, 14-year-old Jacob Toman talks to Michigan Historical Museum visitors in the Civil War gallery. Thanks in part to the Friends of Michigan History, Jacob is on his way to the National History Day finals in Maryland.

Jacob Toman is on his way to participate in the 2003 National History Day competition, thanks in part to the sponsorship of the Friends of Michigan History. The Lansing eighth grader, along with several other students from across the state, will represent Michigan in the national competition held June 14 – 19 at the University of Maryland.

No one at the Michigan Historical Museum is surprised at Jacob's progress in the prestigious history competition. An active member of the Michigan Historical Museum's Future Historians group for students, Jacob also completed the histor-

ical and interpretive training required to join the museum's Docent Guild. You can find the 14-year-old volunteering as a docent almost every Friday in the museum. There, dressed as a Union private, he

shares his knowledge with visitors of all ages in the Civil War gallery. "Kids like it," Jacob says when asked how visitors respond to him. Their attention is devoted. Jacob admits his youth works to his advantage. "I have a feel for what they'd like to hear about because I know the things that interest me."

National History Day promotes the study of history by students in grades 6 – 12. The academic enrichment program has a great deal in common with science competitions, says Tami Averill, Michigan Historical Museum education curator and state coordinator for NHD activities. "We encourage students to take a creative approach to their studies," she says. "Then, students develop a research paper, an exhibit, a documentary or—as Jacob chose—a performance that explores the NHD theme."

Jacob combined his interest in the Civil War with this year's National History Day theme to create a 10-minute soliloquy, *Henry Matrau: The Rights and Responsibilities of an Ordinary Man*. Jacob portrays Matrau, a native Michigander who at age 16 joined Union troops in Wisconsin and went on to become the Union's youngest captain. In April, Jacob's performance won him first place in the state competition and the opportunity to attend the national finals.

"This is an exemplary young man," says Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola, president of the Friends of Michigan History. "He is a role model for other youngsters, showing them the fun and discovery that studying history can provide. We're pleased to help send him to the national finals."

Good luck, Jacob!

There's still time to make the **SUMMER** sizzle !

Are you still looking for some fun activities to schedule around those seemingly endless hours of summer relaxation? If you are, check out the Michigan Historical Museum's Summer Sizzles day camps.

Now in its fourth year, Summer Sizzles takes kids ages 9 to 12 into a fascinating world of Michigan history. Museum staff, docents and invited experts join together to offer kids an intriguing discovery of our state's past through museum tours, hands-on activities and lively discussions.

This summer, there's more variety than ever in this program sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History. Friends members, you'll enjoy a special discount when enrolling your day campers in any Summer Sizzles session.

One-day sessions exploring history through:

- Archaeology
- Art
- Storytelling
- Music
- Dance
- Genealogy

Three-day session:

- Grandma's Crafts
(learn a needlecraft to bring home!)



For information on dates, times and fees, call Jo Anne Arasim, education development coordinator for the Michigan Historical Museum, at (517) 373-1905, or visit www.michiganhistory.org.

Plan a Summer of Fun with the Michigan Historical Museum System

July 12-13

Shield of Steel: The Arsenal of Democracy. Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee. A World War II encampment includes small arms demonstrations, big band music and costumed interpreters. Noon to 4:00 P.M.

July 19-20

Wood-Shaving Days. Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, Grayling. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

July 19

Fort Wilkins by Candlelight. Fort Wilkins, Copper Harbor. Enjoy an evening at the historic fort, seeing it as others did in the mid-18th century. 7:30 to 10:00 P.M.

July 20

Blessing of the Fleet. Fayette Historic Townsite, inside Fayette State Park, Delta County. Service begins at noon.

August 2

Fayette Heritage Day. Fayette Historic Townsite, inside Fayette State Park, Delta County. Noon to 5:00 P.M.

August 3-4

Civil War-era Living History Encampment. Fort Wilkins, Copper Harbor. Battery D of the First Michigan Light Artillery comes to the historic fort to show visitors army life during the 1860s. Saturday, 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; Sunday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

August 9-10

Iron Ore and the Civil War. Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee. A weekend Civil War artillery encampment includes musical programs, cannon demonstrations and children's activities. Noon to 4:30 P.M.

August 23-24

Black Iron Days. Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, Grayling. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Friends honor Brady flag



nce a mystery, Michigan's first state flag is a mystery no more.

The banner has disappeared so many times in its 166-year history, it could be in a magic show. Through a series of fortunate events, Michigan's first flag, known as the Brady Guard flag, has reappeared again—this time for good.

A silk remnant and the only known photographs of this mysterious banner were revealed to the public in a May 24, 2003, ceremony hosted by the Friends of Michigan History at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

The ceremony included Loren Shattuck, who—after corresponding with the descendants of the former owner of his historic home south of Lansing—received an envelope containing a silk scrap and old photographs. Intrigued by the envelope's contents, Shattuck contacted Ingham County Historical Commission chairman Craig Whitford and Michigan State Capitol historian Kerry Chartkoff whose sleuthing helped identify the humble scrap as a significant artifact of Michigan history.

The flag's story began on February 22, 1837, when Governor Stevens T. Mason presented a banner to General Hugh Brady and the Detroit Brady Guard (a forerunner of the Michigan National Guard). The white silk banner featured Mason's and Brady's portraits, and—for the first time on a flag—the new state's coat of arms.

After General Brady's death in 1851, the flag began its amazing disappearing act. The banner reappeared at the beginning of the Civil War and then disappeared just as quickly. A half-century later, a bundle of "frayed old rags" found in the basement of Michigan's State Capitol turned out to be the Brady Guard flag. The banner was put on display in the Capitol but eventually disappeared unnoticed, yet again, until Shattuck's surprise discovery.

The silk from the Brady Guard flag is now housed in a place of honor among the Michigan battle flags collection at the Michigan Historical Museum.



Friends of Michigan History president Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola makes opening remarks at the May 24 celebration in honor of Michigan's first flag, called the Brady Guard flag.



Still in the game!

The Michigan Historical Museum is pleased to be part of the seven-museum partnership presenting sports-themed exhibits across Michigan this summer. This "Summer of Sports" includes the following event in conjunction with *Hometown Hoops*, now appearing at the museum's first-floor special exhibit gallery.

July 12 - Women's College Basketball Coaches

New Database on-line



Across Michigan, arts and cultural organizations produce programs that help children expand their horizons, develop their talents and learn in new, exciting ways. All are staffed with people committed to children's education.

As the parent agency of the Michigan Historical Museum System, the Library of Michigan and other leading cultural organizations, the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries created a statewide database to assist those seeking creative educational experiences for children in pre-K through grade 12. MICASE (Michigan Creative After-School Experiences) is a searchable database of cultural organizations that offer after-school, weekend or summer programs for kids.

Parents can log on to MICASE at www.micase.org to find local kids' programs offered through organizations like museums, zoos, theaters, nature centers and others. If your not-for profit organization provides kids' programs that do not include religious or sports instruction, log on to that same web address to find out how to add to the MICASE database.

Welcome to Our New Friends

Glen Arnold
Laura Ashlee
Frank DeRose, Jr.
Gerald & Sandra Dreslinski
Stuart Grigg
Jenny Hinkle
Kyle McGrath
John & Bernice Miron

Colette Mulford
Robert & Olga Ovenhouse
Jack & Jean Potts
Jack & Phyllis Relyea
Jodie Slezak
Betty Steen
Mary VanHalst
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Thank You to Our Renewing Friends

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Revena McLaughlin
Gerald & Beth Miller
Harold Old, Sr.
Jerome & Ann Rock
Tom Shawver
Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola
Henrik E. & Jane Stafseth
Louise Stilwill
Janet Washburn
Geneva Wiskemann
John & Ruth Woodford
Martha Wright-Shirtum
Kathy Zurvalec

Join Us!

Become a partner with the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting Michigan's rich heritage.

Your membership benefits include:

- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- A 10% discount at the Michigan Historical Museum Stores
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide museum discounts (visit www.mohistory.org, click "Membership," then "Time Travelers")
- *The Museum Insider* quarterly newsletter
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- Membership card
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

For more information,
call (517) 373-2565.

Yes! Please reserve the Friends of Michigan History membership indicated below

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Museum
News 'n' Notes

Museum Store Opens New Location

The newest site in the Michigan Historical Museum System also offers the newest Museum Store location for your shopping pleasure! Friends members, your 10% member discount is now available at the Museum Store at Tawas Point Lighthouse, inside Tawas Point State Park. Purchases at this new location help fund the restoration of the 1876 lighthouse and its interpretive programs. Don't forget to shop at the other two Museum Store locations at Fayette Historic Townsite in Garden and the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

The BIG Lesson Institute, June 25-27

Educators and museum professionals, sign up now for the BIG Lesson Institute at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. Museum education staff will show you how to use an object-based, interdisciplinary approach to turn any museum into a classroom. The workshop is intended for teams of two to three people that include teachers and museum professionals. For more information, contact Cheryl Natzmer, BIG History Lesson coordinator, at (517) 335-2704.

Road trip with
the **Friends**

The Friends of Michigan History and the Michigan Historical Museum are putting the finishing touches on an exciting new program designed to promote cultural tourism throughout the state. Soon, history enthusiasts will board a deluxe motor coach for up-close and in-depth explorations of historic sites and local attractions. The inaugural Friends Discovery Tour travels in August to the 1876 Tawas Point Lighthouse-the newest site in our museum system-and then takes a side trip to Frankenmuth. Watch your mail for details!

